

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019

ALL PRESENT

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President Shenigo called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer was given by Reverend Mike Floyd of Christ Episcopal Church, Huron.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Gerhard Gross was also present.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board **approves the minutes** of the January 17, 2019 meeting; Roll Call: All Aye

**Pete Daniel re Various Issues.**

**Addiction Recovery Center.** Pete advised that the Certificate of Occupancy has been received for the Recovery Center on Superior Street.

**Public Comment.**

**Wind Turbines.** Apex Clean Energy Development Managers Nate Pedder and Sarah Moser, and Development Associate Roger Hunker were also present for this discussion.

Tim Wrenn, Strecker Road in Groton Township, asked the Commissioners to oppose the PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) project requested by Apex for the proposed wind farm in Oxford and Groton Townships. He has concerns regarding property devaluation and the number of unknown consequences of placing the wind turbines in the area.

Mr. Shenigo said that a public meeting has been scheduled the evening of February 26 in an effort to bring everyone together and get information from all parties.

Sarah Moser said that the project will move forward, with or without the PILOT. However, it will change the funding that the County receives. Without a PILOT in place, the project will be assessed the value of each turbine, with depreciation calculated every year. The anticipated life of the windmills is 25-30 years, and then they can be repowered. She explained that the focus should remain on the PILOT, not the project, and that there are provisions in the Ohio Revised Code that come with a PILOT. These include establishing training courses at local colleges for emergency management specific to wind turbines, Road Use Management Agreements (RUMA) that remain in place for the life of the project, and the hiring of a percentage of local workers - 1,100 construction jobs and 55 full-time jobs overseeing the construction. The PILOT concept was developed by the State to bring alternative energy into Ohio and encourage developers to invest here. The County Auditor is working on numbers to determine the taxes on the individual locations.

She also refuted arguments about the effect the turbines will have on the bird and bat population, saying that Apex has been working on this project since 2009, and studies have been extensive.

Mr. Pedder briefly reviewed the project, saying that between 66 and 71 windmills are planned in Erie and Huron Counties. Although 87 sites have been selected, it is unlikely that there will be one at every location, depending on what the State permits.

Mr. Shoffner asked how long Apex plans to own these turbines, and Ms. Moser said that they continue to operate them, and other entities can purchase them. She mentioned Ikea and Budweiser, companies that purchased the turbines near them for power, but said that Apex still owns several.

Tammy Slauterbeck, Strecker Road, Groton Township, said she has been trying to collect information on wind farms, and travelled to Van Wert County to view them herself. She said that the turbines do make a sound that she could hear, and is concerned about that, since three are planned on Strecker Road. She also mentioned infrasound (sound waves below the frequencies of audible sound) and the lack of information on how that can affect people and animals. In addition, there are flooding concerns in the karst area, possible devaluation of property, and the threat to birds. She believes there are too many unknowns to proceed with this project.

The final approval for the construction of the project comes from the Ohio Power Siting Board. However, Ms. Moser said that the PILOT application is being sent to the Ohio Development Services Agency today. Once that is received by DSA, the Commissioners are notified and have thirty days to take action, either approving or disapproving the PILOT.

Mr. Pedder will provide the Commissioners with information on the planned locations of the turbines. Mr. Shenigo asked that he contact the County Auditor, too, to make sure he has all the information he needs before the February 26 meeting.

**Budget Hearing - General Fund.** Present were Ed Widman, Director of Finance; Melissa Tomaro, Assistant Finance Director; Human Resources Director Nancy Ostrander and Assistant Director Matt Wilson; Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent Carrie Beier and Director of Business Services Rachel Malone.

Ed said that he has been contacting officials in preparation for the General Fund consolidated budget hearing scheduled for next week. Many are telling him that they prefer to set spending as the same as 2018, more than the amount they are given to work with this year. Pete noted that we are looking at spending trends for the last three years.

Human Resources - revised numbers were presented, with Nancy saying that she will wait on purchasing two chairs and a shredder (\$1,450). She reduced the hourly salary of the requested part-time Floater Clerk from \$12.50 to \$11.23. Nancy is also proposing reducing her dues and fees and training costs by eliminating membership in the local SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management) chapter (\$200), delaying having the Assistant HR Director pursue the SHRM Professional in Human Resources certification (\$300), and removing her request to have someone in her office go through

next year's Leadership Erie County program (\$990). She cut attendance costs at the County Commissioners' Association winter conference (from \$800 to \$125), training offered by SERB (\$250), and legal update training (reducing from \$500 to \$250). All these cuts reduced her budget by \$3,915.

Mr. Shenigo asked for a breakdown of expenses in the HR salary and benefits line, since the budget has gone from \$319,052 in 2016 to \$368,997 that has been requested in 2019. He suggested pulling up old budgets from back to 2014 to give the Commissioners a better idea of the spending trend.

Board of DD Levy Fund - Ed said that this year's budget is closer to actual expenditures, rather than budgeting for a potential "worst case scenario" for client services. Capital requests of \$293,000 were reviewed, including improvements to Room 201 (\$42,000); installation of nine HVAC Variable Air Ventilation (VAV) boxes (\$175,000); replacement of four doors (\$12,000); additional security cameras (\$4,500); upgrades to the shelter, including siding and painting (\$6,800); replacing shingles on the shed roof (\$3,900); installing window film (\$8,800); and purchasing a new handicap mini-van (\$40,000).

Information Technology - \$50,000 has been included in the budget for ISB funding for Windows 7 upgrades. Pete is recommending that the ISB budget be increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for General Fund operations.

Emergency Management Agency - no requests outside guidelines were submitted.

E911 Wireless Fund - it is possible that we will see an increase in revenues if the State raises fees.

Facilities - capital requests at the JJC include replacing the fire alarm system (\$75,000), with some expenses subsidized by the State and replacing freezer and cooler units (\$10,000); exterior sealing (\$50,000) at the Office Building, and replacing the parking garage gate (\$15,000); repairing the fire pump line and airline to the Annex Building (\$30,000); installing equipment (\$8,000) to limit power outages due to animals being electrocuted on the wires in front of the Services Center resulting in power outages; and installing a panic button in Room 327 for the Commissioners' staff, at a price to be determined. Facilities Superintendent Gary Weillnau has also submitted a camera upgrade at the Courthouse (\$30,000), along with decorative lighting at an unknown cost. He would like to replace the concrete sidewalks and approach at the Adult Probation building (\$10,000); replace two garage doors at the Jail sallyport (\$10,000); and install a smoke evacuation system in the dispatch and laundry areas at the Jail (cost to be determined). This budget also has \$100,000 included in services to cover the cost for water damage in the Services Center Annex due to a broken line in the sprinkler system.

Facilities Maintenance - Jail Operations - within budgetary guidelines.

Prosecutor - Judicial - adjustments to revenues and insurance costs are possible, with IV-D and IV-E contracts in place with Job and Family Services, and health insurance costs that could be moved to DRETAC.

Prosecutor - Delinquent Real Estate Tax Assessment Collection Fund - it was noted that the current fund balance of \$26,544 needs to be built up, which is being requested to come from the Treasurer's DRETAC fund, with a balance of \$411,000. Mr. Shenigo said, too, that the Land Bank funding also needs to be changed, paid from the DRETAC fund.

Common Pleas Court - Tone - Judicial, Special Projects, Domestic Special Projects, and Foreclosure Action Special Projects Funds - Ed has not received information from the department for these funds. He noted that the CourtSmart system is being upgraded, and \$158,000 will be due in March. However, these are not actual numbers, and are only estimates provided by Ed.

Common Pleas Court - Adult Probation, Intensive Supervision Grant and 408 Grant Funds, and Targeted Community Alternative (T-CAP) Grant Fund - these are not firm numbers, either, with questions yet about the end of the T-CAP grant and how personnel will be paid. Adult Probation Director Mike Frank is asking for three additional Adult Probation Officers (\$168,957), citing cases loads for officers that exceed mandated levels. Pete was directed to contact the State and request a report that gives the number of cases in each county.

Common Pleas Court - Binette - Judicial - Judge Binette has advised that he wants his budget to remain at 2018 levels and did not provide any new numbers for this year. Melissa has made adjustments to reflect the new budget policy guidelines.

Family Court - Judicial - Judge DeLamatre's budget includes his share of the CourtView system (\$4,600) and two Family and Children First mentors (\$59,396) that must be employed by the County, rather than considered contractors, per a recent IRS audit finding. The Judge is also asking for additional funding for office supplies, advertising and printing, transcripts, travel, cell phone costs, psychological services for pending cases, and a new copier contract.

Family Court - Detention Home - This department's supporting details for a higher budget than Finance's number did not always provide itemized expenses, and the department needs to explain their requests.

Family Court - RECLAIM Ohio Subsidy - fiscal year funding has yet to be determined, and the budget was approved as submitted, with the direction that spending must be in line with the amount received from the grant.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **recesses** at 11:40 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **reconvenes** at 11:50 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye

#### **Budget Hearing - General Fund continued.**

Family Court - DYS Northern Ohio Community Corrections Subsidy - \$49,336 will be transferred from the General Fund to cover the County's share of the capital grant, with revenue estimates also reduced.

Probate Court - Melissa noted that the numbers presented are ones that she calculated, since Judge McGookey did not provide much detail. Requests include \$23,231 needed as a result of reorganization in the Judge's office last year when an employee retired and the Judge moved a part-time person to full-time; \$4,750 to retain a part-time position that is currently vacant; and a \$5,500 increase to her travel budget, since she has a new administrator who is also an attorney. There was a lengthy discussion on travel expenses, and Mr. Old directed Finance to find out the costs of conferences that the new administrator wants to attend, and include those in the budget summary. Mr. Shoffner suggested looking at the way travel allocations are calculated, perhaps setting departments' travel budgets at a percentage of their total budgets.

Clerk of Courts - Judicial - requests from Luvada Wilson include a salary increase for one of her employees (\$936); an increase in her travel budget compared to last year, since she did not attend conferences in 2018 (\$1,800); an increase in her supplies accounts (\$3,400 for office and \$1,500 for repairs/maintenance); full-time hours for an employee working in her office through a temporary employment agency (\$15,450); and services provided by Strategic Solutions (\$7,502). It was noted that Luvada is also asking for a kiosk, similar to the one used by Adult Probation, but did not have a cost estimate for that yet. The Commissioners denied that request.

Clerk of Courts - Title - Luvada would like to give a salary increase to an employee in that office (\$936).

Sheriff - Sheriff Sigsworth is asking for five replacement cruisers (\$195,000), a contract for a nurse at the Jail on third shift (\$96,720); and the purchase of body armor (\$4,889 of the \$14,666 total cost, paid partially with grant dollars), already approved. Medical expenses were discussed, including the cost of nursing services and inmate care. Mr. Shenigo directed Melissa to determine the amount we paid Firelands Regional Medical Center last year for inmates, thinking that we may be able to get a reduced rate. Mr. Old believes that the Mental Health and Recovery Board should pay for the nurses if they are treating inmates with mental health issues. Pete noted that MH&RB has a mental health professional already at the Jail, but Mr. Shenigo disagreed. Pete was directed to find out if that is true, and if so, if that professional is a nurse.

Sheriff - Civilian Fingerprinting and Administration - within budgetary guidelines.

Sheriff - Security Screeners - the Sheriff will be assigning a screener to Erie County Municipal Court, with those costs reimbursed by Judge Lux.

Sheriff - Training - Sheriff Sigsworth is requesting an additional \$48,448 for training expenses. A brief history was provided to the Commissioners, since the State had mandated specialized training several years ago, and provided funding for that. The Commissioners would like to know if that mandate is still in effect, and if the funds are still provided, too. Pete said this also pays overtime costs to employees who are covering for those attending the training.

Sheriff - Policing/School Resource Officer - requesting \$39,000 for a cruiser, paid from capital dollars.

Sheriff - Dispatching Rotary - it was noted that this fund has a proposed \$64,591 negative ending balance, which was questioned, since this only pays salaries and benefits that we bill back to other municipalities. Pete said he would talk to Sheriff Sigsworth about this, to determine why revenues are not matching these expenses.

Sheriff - Concealed Handgun Issuance - within budgetary guidelines.

Job and Family Services - Public Assistance Fund and Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) - both funds within guidelines.

JFS - Children Services - the purchase of scanners (\$20,000) and services related to data imaging through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (\$99,731) are included in this budget.

JFS - Child Support Enforcement Agency - scanners (\$20,000) are included, and an additional \$5,000 is being requested for chairs/flooring.

Dog & Kennel Fund - Dog Warden Barb Knapp is asking for a rate increase for one of her employees (\$2,426).

The Meadows at Osborn Park - additional funding is requested for computers for the residents (\$17,700), dryers in the laundry room (\$10,000), a resident bus (\$55,000), and repairs/coating to the roof (\$50,000). It was noted that this fund has a projected ending balance of \$813,471.

Family and Children First Council - revenues were increased to reflect TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) dollars that are used to pay for Juvenile Court mentors, who must be employees, per our recent IRS audit.

Soil & Water Conservation District - the County's allocation is budgeted at \$102,898.

Auditor - Auditor Rick Jeffrey is asking for \$9,958 for raises because he is reallocating staff from the General Fund to Real Estate and additional funds for office supplies (\$3,000), Board of Revision advertising (\$1,500), travel expenses to attend the Government Finance Officers Association in Ohio (\$3,500), and web hosting backup and cost increases to the Harris accounting system (\$13,600).

Auditor - Real Estate Assessment Fund - it was noted that the Auditor does not agree with the way the Commissioners are budgeting this fund. Requests are personnel-related (\$22,406). Finance was directed to remove any costs pertaining to additional bed taxes, since those are General Fund expenses.

Motor Vehicle and Gas Tax Fund - a list of supplies and capital projects was reviewed. With the retirement of one of his Project Engineers, County Engineer Jack Farschman gave salary increases to three of his employees who will be assuming those duties. However, Ed said that employee is planning to return to employment, and his salary is still included in the budget.

Tax Map Draftsman - a minimal request of \$174 was made to cover the additional cost of a new copier.

Ditch Maintenance - requesting \$1,680 for a laptop used in field work, \$520 for maintenance/repairs/taxes, and \$5,250 for services/utilities.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board reappoints John Jacobs and Vicki Slaughter to the **Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron & Richland Counties** for another one-year term, expiring December 31, 2019; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with the **Erie County Prosecutor**; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-79 - providing Title IV-D child support enforcement services for ECDJFS)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **establishing an installment schedule of payments for water tap fees** servicing the property located at 4102 Maple Avenue, Castalia, Ohio, Tax ID Number 33-01823.000; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-80 - Dennis C. Wolfe)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing payment to CourtView Justice Solutions** for services provided to the Family Court; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-81)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make an **interfund transfer** re Erie County Sewer Fund; Bay View Sewer Rev Bond Payment Fund; and Bay View Sewer Rev Bd Debt SV R Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-82)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution executing payment of **Then and Now Certification** presented by the County Auditor pursuant to O.R.C. 5705.41(d)1, and authorizing the drawing of warrant(s) in payment of amounts due upon contract or order; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-83)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution declaring certain items surplus and ordering same to be **discarded or salvaged**; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-84)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing payment to Seagate Office Products** for supplies provided to the Common Pleas Court - Judge Tone; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-85)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Blue Technologies**; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-86 - Konica Minolta bizhub 458e printer/copier/scanner for Recorder's Office)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **De Lage Landen Financial Services**; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-87 - leasing a Konica Minolta bizhub 458e printer/copier/scanner for Recorder's Office)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing payment to CourtView Justice Solutions** for services provided to the Family Court; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-88)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution declaring certain Erie County equipment surplus and ordering same to be sold by **Internet auction**; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-89)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing payment to Matthew Bender & Company** for supplies provided to the Common Pleas Court - Judge Binette; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-90)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Stericycle, Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-91 - providing biomedical waste collection, disposal and treatment for The Meadows at Osborn Park)

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Poggemeyer Design Group** re providing professional services for the Mitiwanga Wastewater Treatment Plant Flow Redirection Project for DOES (no change in amount).

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Republic Services of Sandusky/Allied Waste** in an additional amount of \$1,000 re providing trash hauling services for Erie County facilities.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities** in an additional amount of \$65,000.00 re Help Me Grow Part C for the Family and Children First Council.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Cruisin City** in an additional amount of \$140,000.00 re providing transportation services to clients of ECDJFS.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Majestic Transportation** in an additional amount of \$95,000.00 re providing transportation services to clients of ECDJFS.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **City of Sandusky** in an additional amount of \$15,000.00 re providing transportation services to clients of ECDJFS.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **D & D Rides** in an additional amount of \$15,000.00 re providing transportation services to clients of ECDJFS.

Board approves Equipment Outlay and Request Form for **Engineer's Office** re two Haenni WL 101 wheel load scales in the amount of \$10,280.00.

Board executes letter of support to Abby Schwanger, Health Department, re **Health Department's Tobacco Use and Prevention Program in Sandusky and Vermilion**.

Board approves **authorization for cash disbursement form for ECDJFS**.

Board approves Job Descriptions re **DOES** for **Environmental Specialist II** and **Maintenance III - Wastewater Collection Division**.

Board approves **Request to Carry Over Vacation** for **Ed Widman**, Finance Director.

Board authorizes expenses for **Mark Wroblewski**, Auditor's Office, attending 2019 Northwest Ohio GIS Symposium in Cleveland, Ohio, on 5/9/19 in an estimated amount of \$40.00.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Barb Knapp**, Dog Warden, attending Northwest Dog Wardens Officers meeting in Perrysburg, Ohio, on 2/13/19 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Tim Jonovich**, EMA, attending EMAO Executive Committee meeting in Marysville, Ohio, on 2/15/19 at no cost.

Board authorizes expenses for **Tim Jonovich**, EMA, attending EMAO Legislative Day event in Columbus, Ohio, on 3/5/19 in an estimated amount of \$100.00.

Board authorizes expenses for **Tim Jonovich**, EMA, attending Ohio EMA Spring Conference/EMAO Conference in Dublin, Ohio, on 4/30 - 5/1/19 in an estimated amount of \$270.00.

Board authorizes expenses for **Ken Fortney** and **Eric Schippel**, Engineer's Office, attending Clean Water Contractor Expo in Sandusky, Ohio, on 2/28/19 in an estimated amount of \$70.00.

Board authorizes expenses for **Chris Decker**, DOES, attending wastewater license CEU online classes in an estimated amount of \$170.56.

Board authorizes expenses for **Bob Biglin**, DOES, traveling to Jack Doheny for a machine part in Twinsburg, Ohio, the week of February 19, 2019 in an estimated amount of \$9.50.

Board authorizes expenses for **Bob Biglin**, DOES, attending Back Flow Refresher course in LaGrange, Ohio, on 8/20/19 in an estimated amount of \$215.00.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Angela Holbrook-Habeck** or **Victoria Bayer**, ECDJFS, attending County Readiness Manager and County Coordinator meeting in Marysville, Ohio, on 2/26/19 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Kelli Jelinger**, Public Defender's Office, attending Family Drug Court Statewide System Improvement Program regional meeting in Perrysburg, Ohio, on 3/20/19 at no cost.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **DOES** re **Keith Bovard**, Chief Equipment Repair Operator III - Treatment, pay increase due to additional duties performed in absence of Foreman effective 1/27/19; **Harry Proctor**, Chief Equipment Repair Operator III - Landfill, re-hire of employee effective 3/4/19; and **Anthony Schaefer**, from Maintenance Repair I - Collection, to Maintenance Repair III - Collection due to completion of EPA Wastewater Collection Certification effective 1/27/19.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **ECDJFS** re **Kelly Uhinck**, part-time temporary Social Service Aide 1 (grant-funded), employment effective 2/25/19.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Kathleen Herald**, PRN RN, termination due to not working any hours since 6/28/18, effective 2/7/19.

Board approves Request for Recruitment for **Maintenance Repair III - Wastewater/Collection Division** for **DOES**.

Received copy of Press Release from Carolyn Hauenstein, Clerk of the Board, **scheduling a public meeting concerning the Emerson Creek Wind Project, Tuesday, February 26, 2019.**

Received copy of **Huron Municipal Court 2018 Annual Report.**

Received copy of **Certificate of Occupancy** re Erie County Inpatient Facility at 301 Superior Street, Sandusky.

Received copy of **2018 Annual Bridge Report from the Engineer's Office**, per O.R.C. 5543.20.

Received letter from Kevin Baxter, Prosecutor's Office, **requesting separation pay for Pamela Gross**, who resigned effective January 29, 2019. Board approves request, to be paid from the Compensated Reserve Fund.

Received cover letter and copy of **Jail Meal and Turn Key Report** for January 2019 from Sheriff Sigsworth, per O.R.C. 311.20.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **recesses** into **Personnel Session** re **Employment** and **Compensation**; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shenigo and second of Mr. Old, Board **reconvenes**; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board schedules a **special meeting on Wednesday, February 20**; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns** at 2:40 p.m.; Roll Call: All Aye

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